

Parish Report - October 2019

Councillor

Penny Otton

Meadowside
High Street
Rattlesden, Bury St Edmunds
IP30 0RA

Telephone: 07545423847

Email: penny.otton@suffolk.gov.uk



Review of Suffolk County Council Boundaries – public consultation

The Boundary Commission have now announced that they will be looking to reduce the number of councillors at Suffolk County Council from 75 to 70. The next stage of the process is to determine where the division boundaries should be. There is a public consultation which will run until 2 December 2019, available here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/18495>

New process for requesting speed limit changes

There is now a new process in place for requesting speed limit changes. The local county councillor must act as a “filter”: all requests for changes need to come through them, and any individual or parish council who requests a change will be referred to the local councillor. The local councillor will need to persuade the officer group to support a request for a speed limit change. The group will then produce a report on the pros and cons, which the local councillor can comment on before the report goes to Cllr Mary Evans (Cabinet Member for Highways) for a final decision.

Sizewell C – response to Stage 4 Consultation

On 24 September, the Cabinet agreed a response to EDF’s Stage 4 consultation for Sizewell C. The Cabinet maintains that they support the principle of nuclear technology, but do not currently have sufficient information to support the proposals for Sizewell C.

My group (made up of Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent councillors) at the county council has called on the Cabinet to reject EDF’s proposals for Sizewell C. Our concerns include:

- EDF will be overcharging UK consumers for electricity from Sizewell for the next 35 years.
- Impact on the surrounding natural environment, including the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB;
- Impact on the tourism industry;
- Additional carbon emissions and congestion from a road-led strategy;
- Lack of planning for nuclear waste disposal;
- Unsympathetic design to the surrounding natural area;
- Additional pylons in an already crowded landscape;
- Not convinced by EDF’s economic development argument.

Interestingly **just a day after the cabinet meeting** EDF announced that Hinckley point was vastly over budget and over time

Local Industrial Strategy for Suffolk

It is expected that this Strategy will be presented to central government for approval in October. In September, the Cabinet gave its approval for a draft version of the Strategy. However, my group were concerned that the strategy failed to acknowledge both the current climate emergency that we are facing and the potential impacts of Brexit on Suffolk. We have written to with our feedback, which will hopefully be reflected in the final Strategy.

Delay to children's centre consultation

Suffolk County Council has confirmed that there is "no firm start date" for the consultation regarding potential closures of children's centres. Originally, the Council had stated that this consultation would start in September and run for 6 weeks.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT.

There are still numerous pupils waiting for their bus pass, some have been given temporary ones, I am asking how many appeals have taken place and how many have been successful. Some of these will be officer decisions but many will go to the transport appeals panel,

MIDSUFFOLK

After your last meeting I asked what was happening to the house in Cross street; this is to be sold.

MOTION TO INCREASE TREE COVER; this was to work with councils to increase community woods and orchards, support tree wardens, allow re-wilding and be included in neighbour hood plans. I asked that the council must be more active in allowing tree preservation orders.

BIN COLLECTION; this was looked at by the scrutiny committee, I am disappointed that they felt all was ok, whilst I continue to have complaints.

NEEDHAM LAKE VISITOR CENTRE; finance has been approved and the council will be looking for someone to take over the running. Planning permission will be applied for.

NEW PEOPLE TEA; I hope to be able to attend on 27th, October